NUMB. XXXV.

# The GUARDIAN.

*O vitæ Philoſophia dux, virtutis indagatrix!* Cicero.

*Tueſday, April* 21. 1713.

*To* NESTOR IRONSIDE, *Eſq;*

*SIR,*

'I Am a Man who have ſpent great part of 'that Time in rambling through Foreign 'Countries, which young Gentlemen uſual-'ly paſs at the Univerſity; by which courſe 'of Life, although I have acquired no ſmall In-'ſight into the Manners and Converſation of Men, 'yet I could not make proportionable Advances in 'the way of Science and Speculation. In my Re-'turn thorough *France*, as I was one Day ſetting 'forth this my Caſe to a certain Gentleman of that 'Nation, with whom I had contracted a Friend-'ſhip, after ſome Pauſe, he conducted me into his 'Cloſet, and opening a little Amber Cabinet, took 'from thence a ſmall Box of Snuff; which, he ſaid, 'was given him by an Uncle of his, the Author 'of *the Voyage to the World of* Deſcartes; and, 'with many Profeſſions of Gratitude and Affection, 'made me a Preſent of it, telling me at the ſame 'time, that he knew no readier way to furniſh and 'adorn a Mind with Knowledge in the Arts and 'Sciences, than that ſame Snuff rightly applied.

'You muſt know, ſaid he, that *Deſcartes* was 'the firſt who diſcovered a certain part of the Brain, 'called by Anatomiſts the *Pineal Gland*, to be the 'immediate Receptacle of the Soul, where ſhe is 'affected with all ſorts of Perceptions, and exerts 'all her Operations by the Intercourſe of the Animal 'Spirits which run thro' the Nerves that are thence 'extended to all Parts of the Body. He added, that 'the ſame Philoſopher having conſidered the Body as 'a Machine, or Piece of Clock-work, which per-'formed all the vital Operations without the Con-'currence of the Will, began to think a way may 'be found out for ſeparating the Soul for ſome 'time from the Body, without any Injury to the 'latter; and that after much Meditation on that 'Subject, the above-mentioned Virtuoſo compoſed 'the Snuff he then gave me; which, if taken in a 'certain Quantity, would not fail to diſengage my 'Soul from my Body. Your Soul (continued he) 'being at liberty to tranſport her ſelf with a 'Thought where-ever ſhe pleaſes, may enter into 'the *Pineal Gland* of the moſt learned Philoſo-'pher, and being ſo placed become Spectator of 'all the Ideas in his Mind, which would inſtruct 'her in a much leſs time than the uſual Methods. 'I returned him Thanks, and accepted his Preſent, 'and with it a Paper of Directions.

'You may imagine it was no ſmall Improve-'ment and Diverſion, to paſs my time in the *Pi-'neal Glands* of Philoſophers, Poets, Beaux, Ma-'thematicians, Ladies and Stateſmen. One while 'to trace a Theorem in Mathematicks through a 'long Labyrinth of intricate Turns, and Subtilties 'of Thought; another, to be conſcious of the ſub-'lime Ideas and comprehenſive Views of a Philo-'ſopher, without any fatigue or waſting of my own 'Spirits. Sometimes to wander through perfumed 'Groves, or enamelled Meadows, in the Fancy of 'a Poet: At others, to be preſent when a Battel or 'a Storm raged, or a glittering Palace roſe in his 'Ima-

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